Significant Risk Factors by School Level*

Risk Category and Risk Factor	Elementary School	Middle School	High School
Individual Background Characteristics			
Has a learning disability or emotional disturbance		✓	✓
Early Adult Responsibilities			
High number of work hours		✓	√*
Parenthood			√ ∗
Social Attitudes, Values, & Behavior			
High-risk peer group		√*	✓
High-risk social behavior		√*	✓
Highly socially active outside of school			√
School Performance			
Low achievement	√ *	√*	√ *
Retention/over-age for grade	√ *	√*	√ ∗
School Engagement			
Poor attendance	√ *	√*	√ *
Low educational expectations		√*	√ ∗
Lack of effort		✓	✓
Low commitment to school		✓	√ *
No extracurricular participation		✓	√ *
School Behavior			
Misbehavior	✓	✓	√*
Early aggression	✓	✓	
Family Background Characteristics			
Low socioeconomic status	√ *	√*	√ ∗
High family mobility		√ *	
Low education level of parents	✓	✓	√ ∗
Large number of siblings	✓		✓
Not living with both natural parents	✓	✓	√ ∗
Family disruption	✓		
Family Engagement/Commitment to Education			
Low educational expectations		√ *	
Sibling has dropped out		✓	~
Low contact with school		√*	
Lack of conversations about school		√*	√

^{*}Key: ✓ indicates that the risk factor was found to be significantly related to dropout at this school level in one study. ✓ ★ indicates that the risk factor was found to be significantly related to dropout at this school level in two or more studies.